the scheme by an external agency highlighted the benefits accrued to the beneficiaries specially in raising their awareness level on social issues, increase in negotiation skills, increase in knowledge about legal rights, increased participation in family decision-making, knowledge of banking procedure and capacity building among other things. The scheme has been able to provide a forum for women's empowerment, collective reflection and united action. In quintessence, the evaluation showed that Swayamsidha intervention has made women come into their own.

(f) Does not arise.

Monetary assistance for girl child

70. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend monetary assistance for the well-being of girl child in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date of its implementation;

(c) whether separate and specific budgetary provision would be made for the purpose or the expenditure on the scheme would be met from the existing grant of the Ministry; and

(d) the likely expenditure on the scheme for the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Working Group on "Development of Children" for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007—2012) has been constituted by the Planning Commission in April, 2006. This Working Group under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and other experts will review the existing approach and programmes for children and suggest suitable initiatives and programmes for the survival, protection, welfare and development of children including the girl child. The deliberations of these Working Groups will serve as an input into the Steering Committee Report of the Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Steering Committee would form the basis for the programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Eleventh Plan.